

WORK IN BEHALF OF
IND CHILDREN
ed Cl. Walden

113 785 6/85 1437



**M.C. MIGEL LIBRARY
AMERICAN PRINTING
HOUSE FOR THE BLIND**

Junior Work in Behalf of BLIND CHILDREN

By MILDRED CLINE WALDEN

"WE BELIEVE in service for others." To the 8,000,000 members of the Junior Red Cross, these words from the pledge have a special meaning this month. In schools everywhere, members are working on Christmas projects which will help to brighten the holiday season for groups in which the Juniors have a particular interest. For men in the Navy, Christmas dinner menu covers are being made; for men in government hospitals whom the Juniors have "adopted," favors and gifts in the widest imaginable variety are being planned. Toys are being made or reconditioned to give out at children's parties in local institutions, and also for families unable to provide the gifts they would like for Santa Claus to bring to their children. Plays and musical programs are being rehearsed for presentation at homes for the aged. But perhaps the most appealing and popular of all the activities the Juniors are engaged in just now is the making of gifts for children in schools for the blind.

Those of you who read Mrs. Ella Osborne Palmer's article in the August COURIER will recall her account of how this service for blind children got under way. The stories were given out at Christmas time and, in many cases, they were the first brailled books these blind children had ever owned.

Mrs. Charles D. Watson of the Madison, New Jersey, Chapter was enormously impressed with the success of this first venture for children, and it was through her efforts that the short-story project became firmly established on a national basis. Under Mrs. Watson's supervision, volunteers in seven Chapters owning braille presses work the year round transcribing stories suitable for young people from the primary grades to the seniors in high school. The paper used



This little blind girl is absorbed in a story as her sensitive finger tips touch the raised points of braille

for the stories is paid for from the National Children's Fund, frequently referred to as "the fund by children for children." Through the school year, Junior members raise money for their Service Fund. Part of this they send to Red Cross Headquarters for the National Children's Fund, through which national and international projects for children are sponsored. This explains how schools enrolled in the Junior Red Cross obtain the brailled stories on which they put covers. Last year, more than 5,000 stories were covered. Letters of appreciation, like this one from the Georgia Academy for the Blind at Macon, were received by many Junior groups:

"We wish to tell you how much our students enjoyed the stories which were sent to us by the various Chapters. They furnish a variety of reading material which our children could not otherwise get in braille. The students carry these books home with them, and enjoy having them in their own private collection of books."

Ruth Evelyn Henderson, educational assistant to the national director of the Junior Red Cross, directs this project. With Mrs. Watson of the Madison Chapter, she decides on suitable story titles, and works out the thousand and one details which are naturally involved in so huge an undertaking. At the beginning of the school year, every school or class for the blind in the United States receives a letter asking how many pupils are enrolled and how far advanced they are in the reading of braille. In this way, suitable titles may be selected to accord with the reading ability and tastes of pupils in all grades from the primary through the senior high.

When the data are received at the three Red Cross Area offices, the brailled stories are sent out at once to the Junior groups which have already placed their order. In sending stories to schools for the blind, as



Workroom, St. Mary's Institute for the Blind, Lansdale, Pa.



Intent, Junior Red Cross members of Grants Pass, Ore., listen as a blind man reads from brailled books they had bound

many titles are included as possible, so that the children may exchange stories.

There is as much variety in the type of cover made by the Juniors as there is in the designs they originate. National Headquarters insists on but two requirements—that the covers be neatly made, and that the colors be attractive. While some children cannot read print, they still have enough vision to enjoy bright colors; and those who cannot see, like to have their teachers describe the colors and designs to them. A class in the Calvin Coolidge School at Melrose, Mass., has a teacher who writes braille. She taught the children how to write the titles in braille on the covers.

An effort is made to reach every blind child with a story-book. One day last summer, a ten-year-old blind boy came to visit National Headquarters with his mother. He was home from school for the summer holidays and, with nothing to read, found that time often passed a bit slowly. Our Volunteer Service called up the Junior Red Cross and told us about the visitor, asking whether there were any books on hand which he might borrow. It happened that several stories attractively bound by members in Elmira, N. Y., were here in the office; so we took two of them over to the little boy. He was delighted with the gift, and at once started in to read a story. The mother told us that his sister, now in high school, is learning braille so that she can help him with his studies.

Besides the stories which the Junior groups strive to cover in time for Christmas, brailled greeting cards are sent out as well. Sometimes they are for Valentine's Day, and sometimes for Easter. There is a variety of seasonal greetings in graded braille. Scraps of paper left from the brailled stories are used for the cards. Many letters of thanks come written in braille by the children themselves. Here is a letter received by some Juniors at Monroe, Mich., who had sent valentines to blind pupils of Grand Rapids:

"The pupils in this department were much surprised and greatly delighted to receive the brailled valentines.

The appropriate verses and decorative covers were expectantly explored by busy fingers.

"This department begins with kindergarten children, who remain here until they have graduated from high school. At first they have all their work in this department, but after a time they have social studies with the seeing children in their respective grades. When they reach junior high school (seventh grade) they take *all work* with seeing pupils, covering the exact assignments and taking the same tests and examinations. They return from classes with their assignments to the braille rooms, and here they are assisted in the preparation of the same. All lessons are done on the typewriter, so that they may be read by the teacher. By this method the blind pupils make friends with the seeing, and also become much better fitted for life in a seeing world than they would be if they were associating with the blind only."

Covering these greeting cards and short stories has naturally stimulated the interest of Juniors in the blind. Thus service to the blind is not confined to sending gifts on special occasions. When we heard that blind children would enjoy toys as well as stories, we wrote to several schools to find the type of toy that would be suitable. The replies indicated generally that they would like the same sort of toys as are enjoyed by the sighted. A warning frequently repeated, however, was that the quaint or distorted animals and dolls that a sighted child would find amusing, simply confuse a blind child. One school wrote us: "I think our pupils would enjoy stuffed toys, especially if the animals or dolls have distinct arms, legs and tails. For use in a school sand-table, it would be nice to have something similar to a 'Noah's Ark' collection of animals on standards to hold them upright. Here, again, it is important to have the tail and four legs distinct in outline. Market sets now have two legs, that is, a thick front leg to represent the two legs merged against each other, and the same at the back. Some pieces have three legs, and a few have four legs in one outfit. These do not give the most accurate impression of the animals."

And speaking of toys, the other day in Norristown, a young blind girl visited the exhibits in the automobile trailer that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter has been sending around to acquaint the people with the Red Cross. The girl, who attends the Royer-Greaves School for the Blind, after feeling the toys made by Philadelphia Juniors, said she was sure all of her younger schoolmates would enjoy such gifts.

Philadelphia Juniors who are covering stories for St. Mary's School at Lansdale will deliver them personally in time for the school's Christmas party.

Other reports of the activities of the Junior Red Cross members in behalf of the blind reach us from time to time. Here are a few:

The Missouri Commission for the Blind in St. Louis provides white canes for blind persons to carry when walking, as a signal to motorists. When the canes be-

(Continued to page 28)

Junior Work in Behalf of Blind Children

(Continued from page 20)

come soiled, they are turned in for new or reconditioned ones. The old canes are repainted by Juniors of the Bryan Hill School in St. Louis.

During her round of school visits, the health supervisor of Placer County, California, learned of a boy who, because he was partially blind, was unable to come to school. When Junior Red Cross members of the Alta Vista School in Auburn heard about it, they decided to "adopt" the boy and raise money to send him to an oculist; so they arranged a candy sale. They painted posters to advertise the sale, built and decorated counters and made bags to hold the candy. But the oculist found that, after all, glasses wouldn't help; so arrangements were made to send the boy to the State School for the Blind.

The Auburn Juniors arranged a farewell party, and, after playing several selections on various instruments, they gave their "adopted" friend a toy saxophone which played real tunes.

Now the Juniors are helping to take care of the boy's needs. They write to him, send him gifts of clothing; everybody helps. Another candy sale was held at Hallowe'en, this time with the decorations and bags all carried out in Hallowe'en colors and designs. After the sale, the arithmetic classes counted the proceeds, the treasurer of the school made a trip to the post office to get a money order, and letters were written to the superintendent of the blind school, asking him to buy some warm clothes for the boy. Then "thank you" letters were written to the mothers who had helped furnish the candy.

The Junior Red Cross of the Granville Avenue School at Margate City, N. J., wrote: "Would you kindly send us a list of the schools that could use braille books? We have worked hard all year to secure \$50. Now that we have reached our goal, we would like to send the check to some school for the blind."

In Huntington, W. Va., and in Omaha, Nebr., surveys were made by the Juniors to determine the number of blind persons in their communities and to find out what opportunities for service were possible. The Juniors of Chicago, transcribe thousands of pages of braille each year, and Springfield, Mass., has an active braille club of Juniors. While this type of service is not general, because of the difficult and tedious nature of the work, other groups in Pennsylvania and Minnesota are numbered among the Junior braillists. In Lancaster, Penna., the Juniors held a rummage sale to buy supplies for carrying on their work.

In Syracuse, N. Y., and Omaha, plans are made to visit and entertain blind



Busy at braille in a Chicago high school

children when they come home for vacation from the State schools. Last year a gay Christmas party was held at the Lighthouse in Syracuse for the blind students, and workers there, and for Seeing Eye dogs and their owners.

For several years past, some of the Salt Lake City schools have sent brailled books and Christmas gifts to students at the Utah School for the Blind at Ogden. Last year, three pupils from that school came to Salt Lake to visit the Juniors in their school assemblies. At three schools, the children demonstrated the methods used in teaching them. One boy read aloud from his brailled books. A girl explained how blind children learn music by reading the notes from braille characters and then memorizing them. Another girl, who had studied in Ogden for the last five years, wrote on the typewriter. Her geography maps were not made of bright colors, but were outlines of raised dots. Likewise, her arithmetic book was in raised characters of braille, and she did her figuring on a slate with a braille rule and stylus.

When the Syracuse Juniors held a special observance of World Good Will Day, a blind girl read the brailled story "Cease Firing," which had been covered and given to her by the Juniors of Franklin, Ind.

There are lots of brailled stories available for the blind students. As a rule, the schools they attend have libraries which are pretty well stocked with graded reading material. But to have a book for one's own, to be remembered at holidays with greeting cards written in braille, sent as personal remembrances from school children regarded as one's own friends—that is a different thing. And that is what our Junior Red Cross is making possible for blind children everywhere in the country.

First Aid Unit Going Strong in Long Beach

One evening in June, 1934, at Long Beach, Calif., a group of night-school students on completing the Standard First Aid Course were invited by their instructor to a social evening. A suggestion made at this gathering resulted in forming a first-aid club. Mrs. Jessie Downer, secretary of the Long Beach Chapter, became interested in the Unit and invited it to use Chapter headquarters for its meetings. Requirement for membership was a standard first-aid certificate, issued not over two years previously.

It was decided to hold sessions every week, the first and third Fridays to be devoted to a half-hour business meeting and one hour for drilling in first aid, while the other sessions were to devote two hours to first aid practice. The work of training the members was begun with teams formed of both men and women to work out practical problems in wounds, dislocations, fractures and artificial respiration as if in a real accident.

The Unit has on many occasions been invited to give demonstrations before forums and school groups. These have taken the form of a short talk on first aid and its value with pointers on accident prevention, followed by the working of a few practical problems. The demonstrations have been well received, and there is no doubt that the Unit is doing its part to make people safety conscious.

Long Beach is noted for aquatic events held throughout the year and especially in the summer. At these events the Unit establishes first-aid stations, equipped and manned to care for any type of accident. Trained first aiders had charge of a station at the International Crew Races held at the Long Beach Marine Stadium in 1935. First-aid stations have been set up at the out-board motorboat races held from time to time, as well as during the Water Carnival and the large conventions. Once a well-dressed but rather excited lady brought her pet dog to one of these stations and asked the attendant if the wound on the dog's back could be treated. First aid was given to the dog, much to the relief of his owner.

The First Aid Unit is also part of the city-wide disaster setup. In the case of disaster, it would establish and man first-aid stations to care for the injured.

As to Pasteurizing Milk

Recent scientific studies made in England find that although the pasteurization of milk does cause a small loss of vitamins B and C, it does not affect vitamin A or the nutritive value. Pasteurizing is important in killing the bacilli of tuberculosis, so often found in cattle.

Chapters Mourn

Hackensack, N. J., recently lost one of its most prominent citizens, John Howard Sturge, who died suddenly from a heart attack at the age of 51. Mr. Sturge was prominent in the business, social, civic and club life of the city, serving as president of the Board of Education and as president of the Hackensack Kiwanis Club, of which he was an organizer. He was an enthusiastic worker for the Red Cross, and the Central Bergen Chapter deeply feels the loss of his leadership as Chairman.

Mrs. Gibson Fahnstock, a Red Cross leader during the World War, recently died in Washington, D. C. Prominent in the social circles of Washington, New York, and Newport, Mrs. Fahnstock was active all her life in philanthropic, religious and patriotic movements. She was a founder of the Women's Naval Service and the National Service Schools for Women.

An active leader in the Buncombe County, N. C., Chapter of the American Red Cross, recently died at the age of 56. He was Robert Lathan, distinguished editor and civic leader and winner of the coveted Pulitzer prize for the best editorial in the United States in 1924.

Many years of devoted service to the Red Cross ended in the death of Miss Elizabeth Phillips of the Casey County, Ky., Chapter.

The Mecklenburg County Chapter at Charlotte, N. C., recently lost an outstanding leader in the death of Mrs. Ralph Van Landingham. She was a member of the Chapter Board since it was organized in 1917, and made important contributions to civic, patriotic and historical organizations.

The death of Charles E. Hildreth, at the age of 70, was greatly felt by the Worcester, Mass., Chapter, of which he was Chairman. For the last 17 years he had devoted his life to philanthropic and civic duties.

The Executive Secretary of the Windber, Pa., Chapter, Ada I. Nevling, left a vacancy which will be hard to fill. She had served in this capacity since 1917 as a volunteer. Her unselfish life and efficient service was an inspiration to her fellow-workers.

C. F. Dehmer, Treasurer of the Columbus, Ind., Chapter since the World War, died recently.

The late Elza L. Clark was Disaster Chairman for the Knox County, Ind., Chapter, with many years' service on its Executive Board.

Prof. W. A. Walls of Kent, Ohio, former Chairman of the Portage County Chapter, met a tragic death recently in an automobile accident.

Word has been received from the Westchester County, New York Chapter, at White Plains, of the death of Miss Frances S. Mead. She was Chairman



On Constitution Day, Cleveland held a night parade in which the local Chapter entered a float proclaiming that the Red Cross puts into effect the clause "To promote the general welfare," which appears in the preamble of the Constitution

of the South Salem Cross River and Lake Waccabuc Branch since 1917.

The DeKalb County Chapter at Decatur, Ga., was recently saddened by the death of Mrs. H. G. Hastings, a director and devoted worker for many years. She was former president of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs.

The Waldo County, Me., Chapter, reports the death of two of the important members of its Executive Board. They were Mrs. Ben Hazeltine and the Rev. William Skerrye.

From Faulkton, S. Dak., comes word of the death of Dr. Irwin H. Schmidt, one of the most active welfare workers in the State. Besides serving on the Board of the Red Cross for many years, he completed a Child Welfare program which included the immunization of 40,000 children in the State against diphtheria.

Midwest Staff Changes

Two changes in the staff of the Midwestern Area Office at St. Louis are announced by William M. Baxter, Jr., the manager, to take place shortly after January 1st.

Walter Wesselius will be transferred to Washington to assume the duties of Assistant National Director of Disaster Relief.

Howard Bonham will be transferred to Chapter Service as Assistant to Mr. Baxter in the St. Louis headquarters.

"I'm Beginning to Learn"

At the Utah State Convention of the Red Cross, Miss Gayle Cox, a high school student, and a member of the Junior Red Cross of Helper, gave a talk on what the Junior Red Cross meant to her. Among other things she said:

"I am beginning to learn through the Junior Red Cross just what an education means and its value to me and to humanity. I have come to realize how necessary it is to study languages when through that medium alone my own mind may touch the mind of a child in a far-off country. The influence of the Junior Red Cross is causing me to love my civics, my reading lessons, for they are no longer abstractions, but realities. They have become a part of me. Through the little Red Cross society, I am learning how to live with my fellow-men, what to give, and how to take. I feel that it is inculcating habits which will prepare me not only for the life of a citizen when I become mature and full grown, but are making a citizen of me now while I am still in my youth; and why not! Haven't I a right to know how to live properly today and tomorrow?"

Chicago Nurse Honored

Mrs. Estelle Weltman Blatt, R.N., director of Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick for the Chicago Chapter, was appointed secretary of the Illinois State Nurses Association at its recent convention held in Springfield.

